

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 16, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WITHERS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1460.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1460) granting a pension to James P. Sayer, have carefully examined the same, and report:

That James P. Sayer was a private in Company C, of the One hundred and fortieth Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was wounded while in the line of duty. This committee fully agrees with the conclusions arrived at by the House committee, which said report is herewith appended. This committee recommend that House bill No. 1460, granting an increase of pension to James P. Sayer, be passed.

[H. Report No. 65, 46th Congress, 2d session.]

It is in evidence that the claimant received four distinct wounds at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa.: one a gunshot wound in left leg, which subsequently necessitated the amputation of leg below the knee; a gunshot wound in each shoulder, and a shell wound on right fore-arm. That he now draws a pension at the rate of \$18 per month, the same as is allowed by law to those who have lost a leg below the knee and have full use of both arms for clerical work. It also appears in evidence that claimant made application to the Pension Office for increase in 1877, offering medical and other testimony as to the condition of these several wounds and the disability resulting therefrom, which application was rejected on the ground that claimant was then receiving all the pension to which he was entitled under existing law, notwithstanding the painful and increasing disability from three several wounds other than the one which of itself entitled him to the pension he was receiving. Dr. George A. Dougherty, United States examining surgeon, September 19, 1873, says of these wounds: "Large cicatrix on left shoulder, deep-seated; frequently has numbness in middle and ring fingers, sometimes in arm; cicatrix of right shoulder from a flesh wound; cicatrix on right fore-arm, tender on pressure and adherent to tendons; at times painful." Dr. T. D. M. Wilson, United States examining surgeon, October 22, 1877, says of shoulder wounds: "Nervous sensibility partially destroyed, numbness of whole hand, and cramping when much used." Dr. A. S. McElree, a reputable physician, in affidavit dated March 21, 1879, says of wound of shoulder and right arm, that they render him unfit to perform manual labor, and that he performs light office work with great inconvenience and physical suffering; that arms very often become void of feeling and to some extent powerless when used in writing, &c. Dr. W. R. Thompson, the family physician of claimant, who amputated his limb, in his affidavit March, 1879, says of these wounds that at the time they were received they were also attacked with gangrene; they are now the seat of unsightly scars, a source of constant suffering, and have permanently impaired the use of the arms, so that writing or other employment becomes tiresome and painful.

It also appears in evidence that this soldier enlisted when very young and was exceptionally heroic and temperate in habits, himself witnessing the amputation of his leg without a tremor, positively refusing either chloroform or ether.

The law provides a pension of \$50 per month for total disability, and \$18 per month for loss of leg below the knee. The claimant in this bill asks an increase from \$18 to \$30 per month.

The committee recommend the passage of the bill.

